

Appropriations on Track

Wilson votes to support veterans, rural families and diplomacy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This week Congressman Wilson supported and the House successfully passed three appropriations bills: the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act; the State Foreign Operations Appropriations Act; and the Agriculture Appropriations Act. This keeps the House on track to pass all 12 of its annual spending bills by August.

“This week my colleagues and I worked very hard to pass three appropriations bills that will improve healthcare and living conditions for our veterans, further reinforce America’s standing around the world, and reinvest in rural communities affected by the economic crisis,” said Wilson.

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act

This act will strengthen quality health care for more than six million veterans – including 419,000 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – by making improvements in electronic health records, providing additional oversight of the veterans’ health care system, and instituting new practices to improve rural area access. It will also take additional steps to support military families with military child care centers and family housing, as well as additional veterans centers to provide community-based readjustment counseling for veterans and their families.

State Foreign Operations Appropriations Act

This bill continues important investments in combating terrorism and protecting our national security, while also fulfilling U.S. commitment to diplomacy and development efforts. It will strengthen the U.S. diplomatic corps after years of neglect and enhance programs that are crucial to fighting global pandemics, combating drug trafficking, and stabilizing Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The bill also includes funding for UN peacekeeping missions, such as the one in Darfur.

Agriculture Appropriations Act

This act helps rural communities hit hard by the economic crisis. It makes investments in community facilities, housing, water projects and rural businesses. Furthermore, the legislation

increases nutrition aid to families to protect low-income women, children, and senior citizens faced with rising food costs and shrinking wages. It expands services to an additional 700,000 women and children and creates new programs to help ensure that American families do not go hungry.

“I am pleased that Congress is on track with the annual budgeting and appropriations process. All three of these bills make wise investments. It’s a good week when I can vote to support our veterans, our current military men and women, rural families and diplomacy,” Wilson said. “I look forward to the appropriations work next week will bring.”

Next week the House is expected to vote on the Financial Services Appropriations and the Energy and Water Appropriations bills.